



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2008 CAPITAL BUDGET SNA Acquisition and Development Governor's Recommendation: \$1,000,000

It is needed because

Less than one percent of the original oak savanna, less than 10 percent of original prairie pothole wetlands, and less than four percent of original old-growth forest communities remain in the state. Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs) preserve the diversity of Minnesota's natural heritage by protecting rare natural features of exceptional value that are highly vulnerable to development or degradation. SNAs encompass:

- ◆ Undisturbed plant communities, such as peatlands;
- ◆ Rare or endangered species habitat;
- ◆ Important seasonal habitat;
- ◆ Natural geologic features; and
- ◆ Plant communities undergoing succession, such as old-growth forests.

SNAs provide exceptional public benefits including public recreation, water quality, wildlife habitat, biodiversity, and mitigation of climate change and its effects (e.g., the large peatlands protected as SNAs are the single largest carbon stock in Minnesota. Continued peatland protection is critical to prevent emission of additional quantities of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere). This request supports Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group priority AFW-2: Land Use Management Approaches for Protection and Enrichment of Soil Carbon.

Major project elements

This funding will acquire and develop lands as SNAs across the state, with emphasis on the protection of priority native forest, woodland, fen and peatland habitats and their rare plants and animals.

SNA acquisition (\$900,000):

- ◆ Protect lands of statewide significance through fee acquisition and designation. SNA acquisition and designation prevents the loss of important species, plant communities, and features from the state. Presently, nearly 19,500 acres of old growth forest, rare species habitat, and native prairie have been identified that qualify as key areas to protect.

SNA development (\$100,000):

- ◆ Develop unique lands to ensure natural attributes are protected and sustained and public use is safely accommodated. The ecological quality and public enjoyment of SNAs can be enhanced through management activities, including removal of woody encroachment, seed collection, replanting, fencing and interpretive signing.

Priority-setting

To ensure preservation of the highest quality and most vulnerable natural resources, priorities for SNA acquisition are determined by:

- ◆ Minnesota County Biological Survey identified sites of significance or containing rare species,
- ◆ Historical data, and
- ◆ First-hand knowledge of parcels.

Project locations

Project areas targeted for SNA acquisition include:

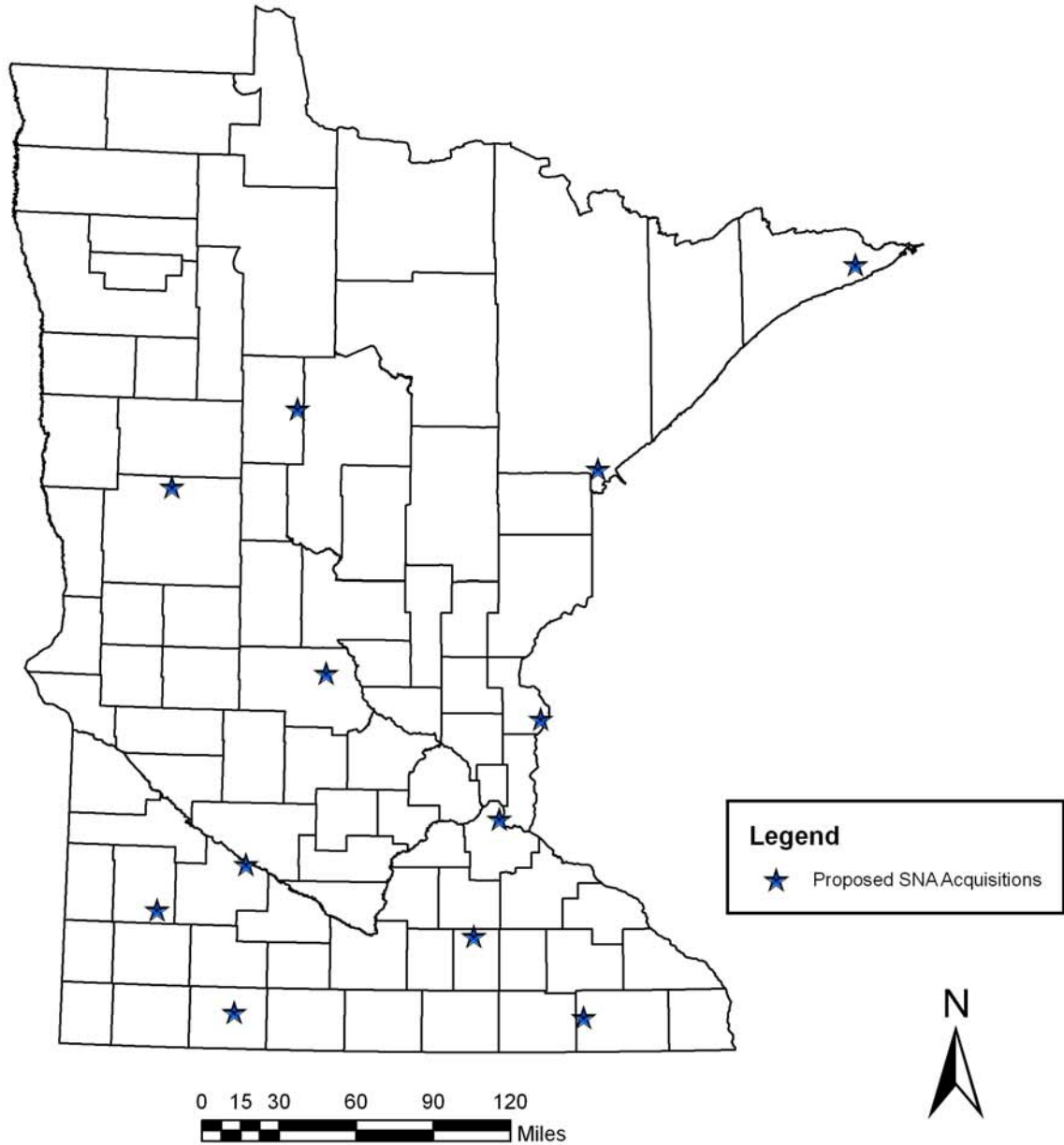
- ◆ Avon Hills Forest SNA additions (Stearns Co.),
- ◆ Big Woods of Cottonwood River (Lyon Co),
- ◆ Clinton Falls Dwarf Trout Lily site (Steele Co),
- ◆ Cooks Lake Forest (Ottertail & Becker Cos.),
- ◆ Des Moines R forest-prairie complex (Jackson Co),
- ◆ Franconia Bluffs (Chisago Co.),
- ◆ Hovland Woods SNA addition (Cook Co.),
- ◆ Lester Lake Forest (Hubbard Co.),
- ◆ Morton Outcrops (Renville Co),
- ◆ Nopeming Unconformity (St Louis Co),
- ◆ Pine Bend Bluffs SNA addition (Dakota Co.), and
- ◆ Wycoff Balsam Fir SNA addition (Fillmore Co.).

Key measures and outcomes

- ◆ Rare native forest, woodland, fen and peatland communities are protected through SNA acquisition and development in 2-6 project areas.
- ◆ The quality of natural features and the educational and recreational values of existing SNAs are enhanced through development activities.

DNR Capital Project Priorities as of January 2008

SNA Acquisition
Proposed Non-Prairie Acquisitions



For further information contact:

Margaret Booth, Supervisor
Division of Ecological Resources
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25, St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 259-5088, peggy.booth@dnr.state.mn.us